

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 14 and 31-40 currently stand withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner as being directed to a non-elected invention. Particularly, the Examiner indicated the claimed limitations directed to a door leaf mounted for swinging between open and closed positions in a doorway in a mine passage, the door frame, the mine the mechanical coupling device and columns are not part of the elected species (Figures 1-3). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Support for each of the limitations listed by the Examiner can be found in Figures 1-3 and/or in the detailed description of Figures 1-3 set forth in the present specification. In addition to Figures 1-3, Applicants make reference to page 3 through page 6, line 17 of the specification. In particular, support for the "door leaf mounted for swinging between open and closed positions in a doorway in a mine passage" can be found at page 3, lines 5-7 and page 5, lines 1-4. Furthermore, two door leafs 5L, 5R are shown in Figure 1. Support for the "door frame" can be found at page 3, lines 20-24 and in Figure 1 by reference number 7. Support for the "mechanical coupling device" can be found on page 6, lines 3-6. Lastly, support for the "columns" can be found on page 3, lines 11-19. As a result, support for each of the reasons provided by the Examiner for finding the amended and newly added claims as directed to an district invention can be found in Figures 1-3 and/or in the detailed description of Figures 1-3 set forth in the specification.

More generally, Applicants note their invention relates to mine doors and, more particularly, to mine door leafs for relatively

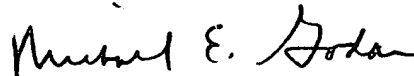
large mine doors and not "a composite panel" as indicated by the Examiner in a Supplemental Detailed Action dated January 6, 2003. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 14 and 31-40 are directed to the Applicants elected invention.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's finding that the amended and added claims are not part of the elected species.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-9, 14 and 31-40. The undersigned requests a telephone call from the Examiner if this would expedite allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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